

Subject:	Draft Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Plan 2015-19 and Medium Term Financial Strategy		
Date of Meeting:	4 December 2014, Policy & Resources Committee 19 March 2015, Policy & Resources Committee 26 March 2015, Full Council		
Report of:	Chief Executive		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan is part of the council's policy framework. The draft Corporate Plan 2015-19 sets the overall direction for the council over the coming four years, describing our purpose and ambition as local authority for the city. It also sets out our vision, principles and priorities, which are shared with Brighton & Hove Connected (the city's public, community and private sector partnership).
- 1.2 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) has been developed with and is presented alongside the draft Corporate Plan. This aligns our principles and priorities with strategic investment in council services. Both documents are produced to address the severe financial challenges facing the council and how these will be met through service modernisation and prioritisation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Policy & Resources Committee:
- (i) Approve the draft Corporate Plan 2015-19 and draft Medium Term Financial Strategy; and
 - (ii) Direct that the final version of the Corporate Plan 2015-19 and Medium Term Financial Strategy be referred back to Policy & Resources Committee after Budget Council in February 2015, for consideration.
 - (iii) At its meeting on 19 March 2015 approve the final version of the Medium Term Financial Strategy; and refer the final version of the Corporate Plan 2015-19 to Council for approval.
- 2.2 That Council approve the final version of the Corporate Plan 2015-19.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The Corporate Plan is part of the council’s policy framework. The draft Corporate Plan 2015-19 sets the overall direction for the council over the coming four years, describing our purpose and ambition as local authority for the city.

Our purpose & ambition

- Strong civic leadership
- Value for money
- Quality public services
- Protect the vulnerable

3.2 It also sets out our vision, principles and priorities, which are shared with Brighton & Hove Connected (the city’s public, community and private sector partnership).

Our principles

- Increasing equality
- Improving engagement

Our priorities

- Economy & housing
- Children & young people
- Health & wellbeing
- Community safety & resilience
- Environmental sustainability

3.3 The Corporate Plan is a key part of the council’s budget and business planning process. New, directorate level plans will be produced annually to support delivery of the Corporate Plan 2015-19.

3.4 The stages of the budget and business planning process are as follows:

Plan/strategy	Month
Brighton & Hove – the connected city (Brighton & Hove Connected, the Sustainable community strategy)	3 yearly
Brighton & Hove City Council Budget	February (Annual)
Corporate Plan 2015-19	March 2015 (4 yearly)
Directorate Plans	March (Annual)
Service plans (Corporate Management Team level or service level, at Director discretion)	March (Annual)
Individual staff performance and development plans	April (Annual & mid year review)

- 3.5 Progress against the plan will be monitored through the council's Performance and Risk Management Framework, including 6 monthly performance updates to Policy & Resources Committee.
- 3.6 Resident/customer satisfaction measures, such as the City Tracker survey (an annual perceptions survey of 1000 residents about the city, council and other public services), will also be used to monitor delivery of the Corporate Plan.
- 3.7 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) has been developed with and is presented alongside the draft Corporate Plan. This aligns our principles and priorities with strategic investment in council services.
- 3.8 Both documents are produced to address the severe financial challenges facing the council and how these will be met through service modernisation and prioritisation ahead.
- 3.9 While the MTFS shows that there is a significant budget gap to address over the next 5 years, amounting to £102.4 million, it also shows that the council's General Fund budget will continue to provide gross service spending in excess of £300 million each year.
- 3.10 The focus of the MTFS is therefore on where this substantial revenue spending will continue to be invested to provide essential public services and support the business and visitor economies
- 3.11 This is supported by a 10 year Capital Strategy that will identify capital schemes to support Corporate Plan priorities and show the associated resource projections and gaps that will need to be addressed through government grants, funding bids, financing strategies and/or public private partnerships (PPPs).
- 3.12 The MTFS sets out the resource projections for the period including taxation revenues. Council Tax levels are a matter for local decision and may therefore vary throughout the MTFS period.
- 3.13 For the purposes of projecting revenue resources, the MTFS therefore assumes the highest level of resources available from Council Tax each year without triggering a referendum.
- 3.14 The MTFS is draft at this time as local authorities are awaiting the Local Government Financial Settlement which may alter some of the resource projections for future years.
- 3.15 There are also new capital schemes proposed in the Targeted Budget Management (TBM) Month 7 report elsewhere on this agenda that are not currently reflected in the draft MTFS. These will be incorporated, along with any further new schemes, in the final version.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Corporate Plan is part of the council's policy framework. Based on previous plans the intention for 2015-19 is to provide a more concise plan with a clearer

focus on the council's purpose & ambition and service modernisation and prioritisation to meet the challenges ahead.

- 4.2 This is directly aligned to city principles and priorities agreed in the Sustainable community strategy. Specific options for areas of investment identified in the plan will be developed, with partners and city partnerships, to ensure the best use of overall community, public and private sector resources in the city.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy are presented together in draft so that committee is consulted at an earlier stage in their joint development, along with 2015/16 budget proposals. Consultation on the budget and any subsequent changes to budget proposals will influence investment areas identified in the plan.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Policy & Resources Committee are recommended to approve the draft Corporate Plan 2015-19 and Medium Term Financial Strategy, which will be brought to Policy & Resources Committee and Full Council in March 2015, once the budget for 2015/16 is agreed.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The draft Corporate Plan 2015-19 and Medium Term Financial Strategy set the context within which the budget setting process for 2015/16 has been undertaken. The draft investment plans are therefore reflected in the 2015/16 budget proposals and draft Medium Term Financial Strategy to ensure that spending priorities are aligned with the plan. Monitoring progress against performance measures is a key element of the Performance and Risk Management Framework; any financial risks or resource requirements identified as a result will be considered in budget monitoring and in developing future years' budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: Nigel Manvell

Date: 06/11/14

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Policy & Resources Committee has responsibility for formulating the Corporate Plan, whereas formal approval of the final version is a matter reserved to full Council.
- 7.3 Policy & Resources Committee has authority to agree the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 11/11/14

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 Equalities implications are described in the plan under the principle of Increasing equality. Areas of investment identified in the plan, as well as consideration of tough decisions ahead, will be subject to Equalities Impact Assessments as subsequent budget proposals are brought forward during the course of the plan.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 Sustainability implications are described in the plan under the priority Environmental Sustainability.

Any Other Significant Implications:

Crime and Disorder Implications

- 7.6 Crime and disorder implications are described in the plan under the priority *Community Safety & Resilience*.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications

- 7.7 Progress against the plan will be monitored through the council's Performance and Risk Management Framework.

Public Health Implications

- 7.8 Public health implications are described in the plan under the priority *Health & Wellbeing*.

Corporate / Citywide Implications

- 7.9 The Corporate Plans sets out the overall vision, purpose & ambition, principle and priorities for the council which are aligned directly to the city's Sustainable Community Strategy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. 'The way ahead', draft Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Plan 2015-19
2. Brighton & Hove City Council draft Medium Term Financial Strategy

Documents in Members' Rooms

- 1.

Background Documents

1. [Brighton & Hove – the Connected City](#) (the Sustainable community strategy for Brighton & Hove)